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- (b) computer processor means and control circuitry connected therewith and with said user interface means for controlling operation of said terminal;
- (c) battery means for supply of operating power to said computer processor means and said control circuitry;
- (d) a terminal housing having a housing open end portion which is open at an end of said terminal housing;
- (e) an end cap releasably engaged with said end of said terminal housing for closing said housing open end portion;
- (f) said terminal having an interior space and having interior electrical connector means within said interior space and coupled with said computer processor means; and
- (g) means comprising the releasability of the end cap providing for the connection with said interior electrical connector means, while the end cap is released from its closing relationship to said housing open end portion and said end of said terminal housing is open, of a peripheral device for enabling the terminal to perform a new function.

39. In a data collection system according to claim 38, said end cap being removable to provide for replacement by a different end cap, peripheral circuitry for enabling the performance of a new function being connectable with said interior electrical connector means prior to engagement of the different end cap with said end of said terminal housing.

40. In a data collection system according to claim 38, said interior electrical connector means comprising electrical contact means for supplying battery power from said battery means to a peripheral device coupled with said interior electrical connector means.

41. In a data collection system according to claim 38, said terminal with peripheral circuitry assembled therewith and inserted into coupling relation with said interior electrical connector means further having a peripheral device associated with the peripheral circuitry for performing an additional function and for data communication with said computer processor means, so as to perform the additional function under the control of said terminal.

42. In a data collection system according to claim 41, said battery means supplying battery power to said peripheral device under the control of said computer processor means.

43. In a data collection system according to claim 38, said end cap being releasable to accommodate coupling a radio frequency communication transceiver with said computer processor means via said interior electrical connector means while said end of said terminal housing is uncovered.

44. In a data collection system according to claim 43, said interior electrical connector means comprising electrical contact means for supplying battery power from said battery means to a radio frequency communication transceiver when assembled with said terminal.

45. In a data collection system according to claim 38, said terminal with peripheral circuitry assembled therewith and inserted into coupling relation with said interior electrical connector means further having a communication transceiver connected with said peripheral circuitry for enabling said terminal to perform a communication function.

46. In a data collection system according to claim 45, said communication transceiver comprising a radio frequency communication transceiver coupled with said computer processor means via said peripheral circuitry and said interior electrical connector means.

47. In a data collection system according to claim 38, said end cap comprising a cover for protectively enclosing said

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housing open end portion, and said end cap having means providing for coupling of an optical information reader with said computer processor means.

48. In a data collection system according to claim 47, said computer processor means including data processing means for processing data from an optical information reader and from a communication transceiver.

49. In a data collection system according to claim 48, said data processing means controlling supply of battery power from said battery means to a communication transceiver.

50. In a data collection system, a user supported computerized data collection terminal comprising:

- (a) user interface means providing for interaction with a user of the terminal during data collection operation;
- (b) computer processor means and control circuitry connected therewith and with said user interface means for controlling operation of said terminal;
- (c) battery means for supply of operating power to said computer processor means and said control circuitry;
- (d) a terminal housing having a housing open end portion which is open at an end of said terminal housing;
- (e) an end cap releasably engaged with said end of said terminal housing for closing said housing open end portion;
- (f) said housing open end portion having an exterior boundary wall defining the external cross sectional perimeter of the terminal at said end of said terminal housing;
- (g) said end cap having an external wall with external perimeter for mating with the exterior boundary wall of the housing open end portion to enclose the end of said terminal housing, and thereby protect the interior of the terminal; and
- (h) means comprising the releasability of the end cap providing for the selective assemblage at the housing open end portion of radio frequency communication components.

51. In a data collection system according to claim 50, said radio frequency communication components having a different end cap protectively enclosing said housing open portion, said different end cap having a radio frequency antenna extending therefrom and coupled with said radio frequency communication components.

52. In a data collection system according to claim 50, said radio frequency communication components being in the form of a radio frequency data transceiver module which can be removed and replaced without disassembly of said terminal housing.

53. In a data collection system, a user supported computerized data collection terminal comprising:

- (a) user interface means providing for interaction with a user of the terminal during data collection operation;
- (b) computer processor means and control circuitry connected therewith and with said user interface means for controlling operation of said terminal;
- (c) battery means for supply of operating power to said computer processor means and said control circuitry;
- (d) a terminal housing having a housing open end portion which is open at an end of said terminal housing;
- (e) an end cap releasably engaged with said end of said terminal housing for closing said housing open end portion;
- (f) said terminal having an interior and having interior electrical connector means within said interior and coupled with said computer processor means;